Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 141443Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0318

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ZIONIST CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1978

REF: (A) 76 TEL AVIV A-175

- 1. THE ZIONIST EXECUTIVE (WHICH RUNS DAY-TO-DAY WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OPERATIONS) DECIDED JANUARY 10 TO RECOMMEND THAT THE ZIONIST CONGRESS BE HELD IN FEBRUARY 1978. THE 110-MEMBER ZIONIST GENERAL COUNCIL WILL MEET IN TWO WEEKS TO SET THE DATE FORMALLY.
- 2. COMMENT: ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1977, THE ZIONIST CONGRESS HAS BEEN SET BACK DUE TO SHARP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ESTABLISHED ZIONIST FACTIONS (WHO WISHED TO AVOID INTERNAL ELECTIONS AND THEREBY MAINTAIN THEIR CONTROLLING ROLE) AND YOUNGER ELEMENTS WISHING TO SECURE GREATER REPRESENTATION AT THE CONGRESS (REFAIR). A RULES AMENDMENT EFFECTIVELY PUTTING OFF PRE-CONGRESS ELECTIONS, WHICH WAS RAMMED THROUGH LAST JULY (DURING THE JEWISH AGENCY UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSEMBLY), HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN OVERTURNED BY A WZO COURT AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. THUS, THE EXECUTIVE HAS NOW BEEN ABLE TO ARGUE, APPARENTLY WITH COMPLETE SUCCESS, THAT THE CONGRESS MUST BE POSTPONED UNTIL ELECTIONS CAN BE PROPERLY ORGANIZED AND HELD.

3. ONE NOT-SURPRISING CONSEQUENCE OF THE POSTPONEMENT

OF THE CONGRESS IS THE CANCELLATION OF THE CEREMONIAL
"SETTLEMENTS DAY" WHICH WAS TO HAVE MARKED THE OCCASION
BY ESTABLISHING SOME 15 SETTLEMENTS ON A SINGLE DAY
(SEE 76 TEL AVIV 5417). WITH THE FUNDRAISERS FROM
ABROAD HAVING TO PUT OFF THEIR CONVENTION, THE SETTLEMENTS CEREMONY HAS BEEN QUIETLY SHELVED. (IF WE MAY
BE EXCUSED FOR SAYING SO, THIS IS A PALPABLE ILLUSTRATION
OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SETTLEMENT "FUNDING" AND SETTLEMENT "FOUNDING.") NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NOT EXPECT THE ZIONIST CONGRESS POSTPONEMENT TO HAVE ANY REAL
EFFECT ON THE RATE OF SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHMENT.
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Message Attributes

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